

and Red Crescent Movement. Congress may consider additional legislation this year about MDA's exclusion from your organization.

We understand that there have been recent meetings between you and the government of Israel which have brought the two sides closer to a resolution. While we are encouraged by the new positive atmosphere, we will be monitoring this situation closely until the MDA is fully recognized by the ICRC and the Federation.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel; Constance A. Morella; Stephen Horn; Jerrold Nadler; Rush D. Holt; Dana Rohrabacher; John M. Spratt, Jr.; Anthony D. Weiner; James E. Rogan; Henry A. Waxman; Joseph Crowley; Tim Holden; Christopher Shays; Nita M. Lowey; Benjamin A. Gilman; Steven R. Rothman; Tom Lantos; Peter Deutsch; Sam Gejdenson; John F. Tierney; Howard L. Berman; John Lewis; Sander M. Levin; Sherrod Brown; Charles B. Rangel; Juanita Millender-McDonald; Gary L. Ackerman; James H. Maloney; Edward J. Markey; Robert Wexler; Carolyn B. Maloney; Janice D. Schakowsky.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in strong support of House Resolution 464 to urge the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to formally recognize its Israeli counterpart, the Magen David Adom (MDA) as a full member.

Unfortunately, international bias against the State of Israel still exists today. While the Israeli people have taken tremendous risks in negotiating peace with their Arab neighbors and promoting normalized relations with all nations, anti-Israel sentiment in international organizations still prevails.

The reluctance of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to provide recognition to the Magen David Adom is just another manifestation of this attitude.

The Magen David Adom not only provides important services in the State of Israel but also works internationally alongside other humanitarian relief organizations providing invaluable emergency aid to people in many countries, regardless of nationality or religious affiliation.

Israel's recent response to the tragic earthquake in Turkey underlines that the Magen David Adom is an important member of the worldwide humanitarian community.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the House International Relations Committee on which I am privileged to serve, unanimously supported this resolution and I urge my fellow Members to give this legislation the same overwhelming support on the floor today and send a strong message that the United States will not accept discrimination against the State of Israel.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 464.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONDEMNATION OF CONTINUED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AND CALLING ON RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO RESPECT SOVEREIGNTY OF BELARUS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) expressing the condemnation of the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus, the lack of progress toward the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in Belarus, calling on President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's regime to engage in negotiations with the representatives of the opposition and to restore the constitutional rights of the Belarusian people, and calling on the Russian Federation to respect the sovereignty of Belarus.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 304

Whereas the United States has a vital interest in the promotion of democracy abroad and supports democracy and economic development in the Republic of Belarus;

Whereas in the Fall of 1996, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka devised a controversial referendum to impose a new constitution on Belarus and abolish the Parliament, the 13th Supreme Soviet, replacing it with a rubber-stamp legislature;

Whereas President Lukashenka organized a referendum in violation of the 1994 Belarusian Constitution, which illegally extended his term of office to 2001;

Whereas Lukashenka's legal term in office expired in July 1999;

Whereas Belarus has effectively become an authoritarian police state, where human rights are routinely violated;

Whereas Belarusian economic development is stagnant and living conditions are deplorable;

Whereas in May 1999, the Belarusian opposition challenged Lukashenka's unconstitutional lengthening of his term by staging alternative presidential elections, unleashing the government crackdown;

Whereas the leader of the opposition, Semyon Sharshchuk, was forced to flee Belarus to the neighboring Baltic state of the Republic of Lithuania in fear for his life;

Whereas several leaders of the opposition, including Viktor Gonchar, Anatoly Krasovskiy, and Yuri Zakharenka have disappeared;

Whereas the Belarusian regime harasses and persecutes the independent media and works to actively suppress freedom of speech;

Whereas former Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhyr, who was a candidate in the opposition's alternative presidential elections in May 1999, was held in pretrial detention on trumped up charges from April through November 1999;

Whereas the Lukashenka regime provoked the clashes between riot police and demonstrators at the October 17, 1999, "Freedom March", which resulted in injuries to demonstrators and scores of illegal arrests;

Whereas hundreds of peaceful demonstrators and over thirty journalists were arrested during a March 25, 2000, pro-democracy rally in Minsk, once again illustrating the Lukashenka regime's disregard for freedom of assembly, association, and information;

Whereas the Lukashenka regime has refused to engage in meaningful dialogue with the opposition and has used the tactics of delay and obfuscation in disregarding the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)-mediated dialogue process;

Whereas genuine dialogue with the opposition and legitimate, free and fair elections cannot take place in the present climate of repression and fear existing in Belarus;

Whereas on April 3, 1996, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and President Lukashenka signed an agreement to form a Union State of Russia and Belarus;

Whereas there have been credible press reports that the Government of the Russian Federation has been providing assistance to the Lukashenka regime since the signing of the agreement to form a Union State, such as official Russian Federation Government credits, uncollected customs duties, assistance for export sales of Belarusian arms and joint manufacturing of arms, and reduced prices for energy supplies;

Whereas there has been a credible estimate cited in press reports that Russian Federation economic subsidies to Belarus reached \$1,500,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000 in 1996 and 1997 alone, enabling the Lukashenka regime to maintain a large police force and state control of the economy;

Whereas the Union Treaty, signed on December 8, 1999, by Belarus and the Russian Federation, undermines Belarus sovereignty and the prospect of democracy;

Whereas the Consultative Council of Belarusian opposition parties appealed to the Government of the Russian Federation, the State Duma, and the Federation Council calling for a cessation of support for the Lukashenka regime;

Whereas the former Chairmen of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, Stanislav Shushkevich and Semyon Sharshchuk, have stated that economic support from the Russian Federation has been crucial to the survival of the Lukashenka regime;

Whereas a Union Treaty between the Russian Federation and Belarus was ratified by the Russian Parliament and the illegitimate parliament of Belarus;

Whereas the Union Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Lukashenka regime violates Russian Federation Government respect for the sovereignty of Belarus per the memorandum on security guarantees signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin at the December 1994 Summit of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Heads of State in Budapest, Hungary; and

Whereas the introduction of any nuclear weapons on the territory of Belarus, a declared non-nuclear state under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, would be a violation of Belarus's obligations under that Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns continued egregious violations of human rights by President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's regime in the Republic of Belarus;

(2) further condemns the Lukashenka regime's conviction and sentencing of Andrei Klimov, Vasilii Leonov, and Vladimir Koudinov on politically motivated charges and urges their release;

(3) is gravely concerned about the disappearances of Viktor Gonchar, Anatoly Krasovskiy, and Yuri Zakharenka and calls on the Lukashenka regime to ensure a full and timely investigation of these cases;

(4) calls for immediate dialogue between the Lukashenka regime and the opposition and the restoration of a democratically elected government in Belarus;

(5) urges the Lukashenka regime to respect and ensure the human rights of all Belarusian citizens, including those members of the opposition who are currently being illegally detained in violation of their constitutional rights and further urges the regime to respect the rule of law and an independent judiciary;

(6) further urges Lukashenka to hold legitimate, free and fair parliamentary elections in accordance with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) standards;

(7) supports the appeal by the Consultative Council of Belarusian opposition parties to the Government of the Russian Federation, the State Duma, and the Federation Council calling for a cessation of support for the Lukashenka regime;

(8) calls on the international community to support the opposition in Belarus by continuing to meet with the legitimately elected parliament;

(9) supports Belarus's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, as well as its market democratic transformation and integration among the broader trans-Atlantic community of nations;

(10) calls on the President of the United States—

(A) to ensure assistance to and cooperation with Belarusian opposition figures;

(B) to ensure that adequate resources are made available on an urgent basis to support those programs aimed at strengthening independent media, human rights, civil society, independent trade unions, and the democratic opposition in Belarus; and

(C) to support the free flow of information into Belarus;

(11) calls on the President of the United States to raise the issue of financial support provided by the Russian Federation to the Lukashenka regime at the highest levels of the Russian Federation Government;

(12) calls on the President of the United States to urge the Government of the Russian Federation, in accordance with its international commitments, to fully respect the sovereignty of Belarus, particularly in light of the illegitimate nature of the Lukashenka regime; and

(13) calls on the President of the United States to prepare and transmit to the Congress a report on—

(A) the human rights situation, democratic process, elections, independence of the media, and the Lukashenka regime's control of the economy in Belarus;

(B) the steps undertaken by the United States to persuade the Russian Federation Government to end support to the Lukashenka regime in Belarus; and

(C) the status of Russian Federation-Belarus military integration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. Gilman. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res 304.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is extraordinarily important for the people of Belarus, for their liberty and their freedom. I want to thank our ranking minority member on the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), for introducing this measure which calls it like it really is in Belarus, pointing out quite simply that the regime of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka is unconstitutional and illegitimate. It points out that the Lukashenka regime uses the very worst of Soviet-style tactics to repress political opposition and democratic Government and to deny the people of Belarus their fundamental human rights. It points out that the Lukashenka regime is, in short, nothing less than a dictatorship, pure and simple.

Mr. Speaker, I have been pleased to join the ranking member as an original sponsor of this resolution, not just for those important reasons, but because it also points to some very troubling facts with regard to the foreign policy of Belarus' neighbor, Russia.

First, as this measure notes, the Government of Russia has been pursuing a reunification with Belarus and is actively pursuing such reunification just as we speak. Such a reunification is inappropriate and I believe an affront under international law for the following reasons: The president of the Belarusian parliament is an illegitimate one, having been dissolved by the President, and no such negotiations should be conducted with it or, much less, agreements ratified with it.

Any such reunification of results in Russia extending its military nuclear forces to cover Belarus would, I believe, be a violation of Belarus status as a nonnuclear state under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, the second important point raised by this resolution regarding Russia is the fact that Russia has been providing considerable financial support, billions of dollars worth of such support, to that dictatorship in Belarus, and at a time when the Russian Government is getting hundreds of millions of dollars in aid from our Nation to pay its costs for reducing its arms under the START-I Treaty, at a time when the Russian Government is seeking billions of dollars in debt forgiveness from foreign Governments, including our own Nation, at a time

when the Russian Government has received billions of dollars in loans from international financial institutions, and at a time when our Nation is turning over to the Russian Government hundreds of millions of dollars in monies earned from the sale of donated American food in Russia, it is nothing less than shocking that the Russian Government is spending millions of dollars to support a brutal dictatorship in Belarus and to fight a war in Chechnya that has killed thousands of innocent civilians.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this resolution should be a wake-up call to our President that now is the time to take action, appropriate action, that Russia cease its support for Lukashenka and his dictatorship. This resolution calls on the President to raise the issue of Russian financial support for the Lukashenka regime and to report to the Congress on the steps undertaken to persuade it to end that kind of support.

Once again, that simply has to come to an end, and our Nation should make it clear that we not going to support further IMF loans, debt forgiveness or other forms of assistance of importance to the Russian Government until it ends this kind of support to Belarus.

Mr. Speaker, let me state in closing that there are some important issues that, regrettably, are not raised in this measure, including the mysterious incident in September 1995, in which a Belarusian helicopter gunship shot down an American hot air balloon involved in an international race, killing two American civilians; Lukashenka's eviction of our American Ambassador from his official residence, in violation of international diplomatic conventions; and, finally, reports that the illegitimate government in Belarus may be engaged in the proliferation of advanced military technology to other such regimes around the world.

This comprehensive resolution does not go into those issues, but, as I have noted, it makes it clear that now is the time to halt Russian support for the Lukashenka dictatorship, and it does indeed do a great service to the repressed people of Belarus simply by stating the obvious, that the government of Belarus is nothing but a dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Russian Government to cease its financial support for the regime in Minsk, to halt its moves to reunify its government and military with Lukashenka's regime and its Armed Forces, to respect the sovereignty of Belarus, and to join us in sincerely working for the cause of true democracy in that suffering country.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), in support of this resolution. It was interesting that in less than half an hour on this floor we had over one-quarter of the Members join us as cosponsors of this legislation. If we had spent any time, we would have had virtually every Member joining us.

This resolution may not even be directed at Mr. Lukashenka, because it is clear he is not listening. He is not listening to his own citizens who have experienced some of the worst economic hardship in the former Soviet Union. He is not listening to the international community. His country today is among the most isolated of the former Soviet countries. While many are moving towards democratic institutions and a better standard of living for their citizens, Belarus sadly continues to see both its democratic institutions and its economy deteriorate.

The people of Belarus deserve better. They have suffered so much through World War II in history, as the armies of Germany and Russia pushed back and forth, and you need only go to the capital city of Minsk to see that virtually no buildings remain from the pre-war era.

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So hopefully, those in the government in Belarus who recognize that what Mr. Lukashenka is doing to their country is wrong, is damaging, will join with the opposition, join to bring about change to work out a new democratic agreement to develop a civil society there.

We hope that Mr. Putin and the Russians will put pressure on Belarus to move forward to try to attain democratic institutions and a free economy. It is in Russia's interests to see that its neighbor be developed in a democratic way and have a stronger economy. Russian subsidies of the Lukashenka government and cheap energy will only continue to harm the Russian economy, whereas a strong, independent, democratic and free Belarus would actually help the Russian economy and society.

Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the abuse by the government in Minsk, Mr. Lukashenka's attack on people who want to protest for freedom. He is robbing the political system of the proper election process, and we now hear that he may be involved in illegal arms sales to the government of Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of this House who treasures democracy, every one of our allies in the world today recognizes that sadly it is Belarus alone that has the worst of the post-Soviet era, a crumbling economy, a lack of democracy; and the fact that the dia-

logue continues to deteriorate is a very bad sign there. It will not go unnoticed in this Chamber. It is one place where our European allies stand with us in opposition to the Lukashenka government. We will not end this struggle until the good people of Belarus have their chance at freedom and a better life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for their leadership in constructing this resolution condemning violations of human rights and the erosion of democracy in Belarus in calling upon the Lukashenka regime to restore the constitutional rights of the Belarusian people and on the Russian Federation to respect the sovereignty of Belarus.

In March, Mr. Speaker, I chaired a second Helsinki Commission hearing on Belarus which addressed many of the issues that are very importantly highlighted in this resolution. The hearing featured key leaders of Belarus's opposition, including Semyon Sharetsky and two leading State Department officials as well as the person in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Adrian Severin, who was attempting to forge dialogue between the Belarusian authorities and the opposition. This hearing was a follow-up to our April 1999 hearing on Belarus. In the last year our commission has made repeated and consistent intercessions, including through the OSCE, to draw attention to the deplorable situation in Belarus and to encourage the establishment of a democracy there.

As my friend and colleague from Connecticut just pointed out, there are the allegations, and they would seem to be real, that have been in some of the newspapers, including the London Sunday Telegraph about the Russians brokering an arms deal to rebuild the Iraqi air defenses using the Belarusians as the conduit. The Telegraph reported that Beltechexport, the State-owned Belarusian military hardware company, has agreed to upgrade Iraqi's air defense systems to reequip the Iraqi Air Force and to provide air defense training for Iraqi troops. The deal is estimated to be worth about \$90 million. It was signed in the middle of April, or last February, I should say, during a visit to Baghdad by high-ranking Belarusians.

It also points out, the article, that Belarusian officials have agreed to undertake a detailed overhaul of 17 Soviet-made Iraqi war planes which had been in Belarus since the late 1980s.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this directly puts our pilots at risk who are trying

to enforce the no-fly zone, and I think this resolution again gets this Congress focused on the egregious human rights situation and also the military implications of the Belarusian regime.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Resolution, of which I am proud to be an original co-sponsor. I would like to praise the sponsor, the Gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. GEJDENSON, for introducing this Resolution, and to thank both the Ranking Member and the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. GILMAN, for bringing the Resolution to the Floor of the House so quickly.

Mr. Speaker, while there have been many success stories among the new independent states of the former Soviet Union and the other former Warsaw Pact nations, Belarus has not been one of them. Over nearly a decade of independence, the promise of democracy, freedom of expression and association, and a new flowering of a national identity have not come to pass for the Belarusian people. The fault for this sad state of affairs rests with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. The President has illegally extended his term of office beyond the legally mandated expiration date. Throughout his tenure, President Lukashenka has monopolized the mass media, undermined the constitutional foundation for the separation of powers, used intimidation and strong-arm tactics against the political opposition, suppressed freedom of the press and expression, defamed the national culture, maligned the national language and eroded Belarus's rightful position as a sovereign nation.

Apart from the daily deprivations and indignities that the Belarusian people must endure, perhaps the saddest outcome of Mr. Lukashenka's rule is that his efforts have created the impression—a false one—that Belarus really has no distinct national culture or character. Nothing could be further from the truth. But the formation of the Union State between Russia and Belarus only serves to further perpetuate this false impression. While the tragic reality is that Belarus has been dominated politically for centuries by Russia, the fact remains that Belarus has its own national symbols and a distinct language.

It's no coincidence that authoritarian President Lukashenka has targeted such national symbols as the nation's flag and coat of arms. As part of this campaign, Lukashenka's regime has ordered that schools go back to using Soviet-Russian textbooks, while the Russian language has been made the official language of the Belarusian Parliament in Minsk. Lukashenka's strategy has been to create conditions to justify the claim that history, language and culture inevitably tie the two countries together.

The Belarusian language endures to this day as a key to national survival, both for the people living in the Republic of Belarus and among the Belarusian diaspora in the U.S. and elsewhere. There are centuries-old legal documents and religious texts written in the Belarusian language, as well as modern literary and historic works. Despite Lukashenka's repression, the cause of Belarusian nationalism still burns in the heart of the Belarusian people, with the Belarusian language the means of expressing it.

Failure to acknowledge the harm done to Belarusian culture and national singularity by the Russian-Belarus merger can only give comfort to Lukashenka and the Russian-Soviet irredentists.

Mr. Speaker, the negligence and mismanagement of Mr. Lukashenka's regime has also put at risk the nation's environment and the health of the people. Just last week, former Belarusian President Stanislaw Shushkevich spoke at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Washington office on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in neighboring Ukraine. More than 70 percent of the radioactive fallout from the world's worst nuclear accident fell on Belarusian territory. While there is plenty of blame to go around for mishandling of this disaster—among Soviet officials, and post-Soviet officials in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus—President Lukashenka exacerbates the problems by insisting that all aid to Chernobyl victims pass through his hands. These funds often are diverted to other uses. Fortunately, some Western NGOs and religious organizations have bypassed Lukashenka to get aid to the people who really need it.

Also last week, RFE/RL President Thomas A. Dine denounced efforts by the Belarusian KGB to intimidate journalists from that organization working in Belarus. Mr. Dine's statement came in response to the threats against Yavor Mayorchyk, a reporter for the news service funded by this Congress to provide objective information to people from the region. A KGB officer told Mr. Mayorchyk that the "same thing will happen to you as to Babitsky," a reference to RFE/RL journalist Andrei Babitsky who was arrested for his coverage of the war in Chechnya and faces trumped-up charges in Moscow.

Mr. Speaker, the abuses of the Lukashenka regime have been a source of concern for at least the past four years. In 1996, I introduced a Resolution expressing concern over the Lukashenka regime's violations of human and civil rights in direct violation of the Helsinki accords and the constitution of Belarus, and expressing concern about the union between Russia and Belarus. That Resolution also recognized March 25 as the anniversary of the declaration of an independent Belarusian state. A year later, I worked with leaders of the International Relations Committee to include language in the State Department Authorization bill, which passed the House, calling for our President to press the Government of President Lukashenka on defending the sovereignty of Belarus and guaranteeing basic freedoms and human rights.

For years now, the Belarusian-American community has been trying to inform the American people about the truth in Belarus, that President Lukashenka's actions do not have widespread support and his regime has lost any sense of legitimacy it once may have had. I want to thank the Belarusian-American community in New Jersey and throughout the nation for continuing to speak the truth about events in the land of their ancestors.

Obviously, President Lukashenka has not been moved by these expressions of concern by the United States and the international community. But we must not give up. We

should go on record condemning the abuses that have taken place, and continue to take place in Belarus. We must urge our President and State Department to keep the pressure on President Lukashenka—and also Russian President Vladimir Putin.

For these and many other reasons, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this Resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 304.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SIERRA LEONE PEACE SUPPORT ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3879) to support the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in its peace-building efforts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3879

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sierra Leone Peace Support Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Eight years of civil war and massive human rights violations have created a humanitarian crisis in the Republic of Sierra Leone, leaving over 50,000 dead and 1,000,000 displaced from their homes.

(2) As many as 480,000 Sierra Leoneans have fled into neighboring countries, especially Guinea.

(3) All parties to the conflict have committed abuses, but the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and its ally, the former Sierra Leonean army (AFRC) are responsible for the overwhelming majority.

(4) The RUF and AFRC have systematically abducted, raped, mutilated, killed, or forced children to fight alongside RUF soldiers.

(5) The RUF continues to hold hundreds and perhaps thousands of prisoners, including many child soldiers, despite the agreement of RUF leadership at Lome to release all children.

(6) The civil defense forces committed human rights violations, including killings and recruitment of child soldiers, and Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) forces have also committed human rights abuses, including executions of captured combatants and killings of civilians.

(7) Neighboring countries, especially Liberia and Burkina Faso, have contributed greatly to the destruction of Sierra Leone by aiding and arming the RUF and providing sanctuary for RUF fighters.

(8) International humanitarian efforts to assist Sierra Leoneans, both at home and in Guinea, have fallen far short of need such that conditions in refugee camps and among displaced persons camps are deplorable, food and medicine is dangerously inadequate, and the refugee population on the Sierra Leonean border continues to be preyed upon by RUF insurgents and subjected to rape, mutilation, or killing.

(9) Demobilization, demilitarization, and reintegration (DDR) efforts, as called for in the Lome agreement of July 1999, have begun months late and are still at beginning stages.

(10) With the withdrawal of the West African peacekeeping forces, the United Nations Security Council has approved the deployment of 11,000 peacekeeping forces for Sierra Leone.

(11) There are approximately 45,000 combatants, including many child soldiers, in Sierra Leone who must be demobilized, provided with alternate employment, and reintegrated into their communities.

(12) Both the Government of Sierra Leone and the RUF/AFRC formally agreed in the Lome Convention of July 7, 1999, to uphold, promote, and protect the human rights (including the right to life and liberty, freedom from torture, the right to a fair trial, freedom of conscience, expression, and association, and the right to take part in the governance of one's country) of every Sierra Leonean as well as the enforcement of humanitarian law.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The Congress urges the President to vigorously promote efforts to end further degradation of conditions in the Republic of Sierra Leone, to dramatically increase United States assistance to demobilization, demilitarization, and reintegration (DDR) efforts and humanitarian initiatives, to assist in the collection of documentation about human rights abuses by all parties, and to engage in diplomatic initiatives aimed at consolidating the peace and protecting human rights.

SEC. 3. DEMOBILIZATION, DEMILITARIZATION, AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 for assistance under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2221 et seq.) to the Sierra Leone DDR Trust Fund of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for demobilization, demilitarization, and reintegration assistance in Sierra Leone. Assistance under the preceding sentence may not be used to provide stipends to ex-combatants of the civil war in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) are in addition to any other amounts available for the purpose described in such subsection; and

(2) are authorized to remain available until expended.

SEC. 4. DEMOCRATIZATION, ELECTORAL, AND JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 for assistance to rebuild and strengthen the capacity of the judiciary in the Republic of Sierra Leone and to assist efforts to establish the rule of law and maintain law and order in Sierra Leone.